

## Paratroopers 'crackdown' on caches

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Charles D. Meseke  
CTF-82 PAO

**KHAR BOLAH, Afghanistan**—A large weapons cache was found near the village of Khar Bolah as paratroopers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 505<sup>th</sup> PIR executed Operation Crackdown Wednesday.

The objective of the operation was to hunt for anti-coalition forces and weapons that could be used against the coalition.

Intelligence reports paid off when troopers in the northern section of the vil-

— See **CRACKDOWN**, Page 4



*A paratrooper of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division searches the basement of a home for hidden weapons Wednesday in the village of Khar Bolah. Paratroopers of the 504<sup>th</sup> and 505<sup>th</sup> PIRs searched the village for weapons and anti-coalition forces.*

## Mortar platoon: Fire for effect

Story and photos by  
Sgt. W. Cullen James  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**ASADABAD FIRE BASE, Afghanistan** – There are things that go bump in the night that may cause some of us to take pause. However, at a fire base, the folks that answer some of those bumps with loud thumps help everyone rest easier.

The soldiers of the mortar platoon at Asadabad Fire Base are the ones that lend a 120-millimeter response to threats the base might face.

“We provide 360-degree base defense,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Couch, platoon leader, Mortar Platoon, B Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.

To help provide that degree of coverage, the mortar platoon relies on soldiers sitting atop observation posts and forward observers to give them good data that ensures accurate and lethal strikes. The teamwork needed is practiced through training.

The platoon has fired over 360 rounds at Asadabad, both training and in fire support. “We’ve fired more rounds in country than any other mortar platoon I know of,” Couch said.

The training helps the mortar platoon soldiers keep their skills sharp, but it also assists the forward observers, Couch said. “It’s really great training for the forward observers. The more they do it, the more it increases their skill level making our fire more effective.”

— See **MORTARS**, Page 4



*Cpl. William Beck, squad leader, Maintenance Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., hangs a round as he waits for the word to drop from Staff Sgt. Cesar Pena, chief, 4<sup>th</sup> Section, Mortar Platoon, B Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.*

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## U.S. administrative chief to arrive on Monday



**BAGHDAD** — With much of Iraq still without formal government following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, the former U.S. general who will head an interim administration in Iraq is due to arrive in the country within hours.

Retired Gen. Jay Garner, who will head Iraq's civil administration while a new government is established, will arrive in Iraq Monday, with the Bush administration's preparations for postwar Iraq coming under fire from both sides of the congressional aisle and fears for the future being expressed inside Iraq.

The United States has not adequately prepared for postwar reconstruction, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday. Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press," also predicted that democracy in Iraq is at least five years away.

"They started very late," Republican Sen. Richard Lugar told NBC's Meet the Press. "The military strategy, tactics and execution have been brilliant. But we needed to be doing something similar (in the reconstruction phase)." (Full story)

Sen. Joe Lieberman, a Democratic presidential candidate, also praised the U.S. military performance in Iraq but urged the United States to accelerate its postwar reconstruction efforts.

"We've got to work hard to win the peace" in Iraq and transform the nation's

political structure into a "representative, democratic government," Lieberman told CBS's "Face the Nation" television show. "Obviously, we don't want this to turn into a theocracy."

Garner and his team face a daunting task which ranges from restoring power and water to establishing the rule of law in the war-shattered country.

## Saddam son-in-law surrenders

**BAGHDAD** — Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Jamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan, has surrendered to the Iraqi National Congress (INC), which will hand him over to U.S. troops, the anti-Saddam group said.

Sultan, on the U.S. military's list of 55 most wanted Iraqis, would be the first close family member of Saddam's to surrender.

He is in Baghdad, where he will be put in U.S. custody Sunday evening, INC spokesman Zaab Sethna said.

Sultan served as deputy head of tribal affairs under Saddam's regime, according to the U.S. military's list. Sethna said Sultan also served in the special security organization headed by Saddam's son Qusay.

Sultan was marked as the nine of clubs in the deck of playing cards featuring regime leaders that was handed out to U.S. troops.

He had fled to Syria, and "we convinced him the best thing to do would be for him to return to Iraq and surrender himself," Sethna said.

"We made it clear to him he had a better chance facing a fair process, and we assured him it would be a process rather than spending his life on the run."

Sultan is Saddam's only remaining son-in-law, Sethna said.

Saddam had two of his sons-in-law executed after they defected.

Coalition forces, U.S. Central Command said Sunday. He was Iraq's minister of higher education and scientific research. He was the four of hearts in the Central Command's card deck.

## Scott Peterson awaits arraignment

**MODESTO, Calif.** — In the two days since he was arrested, Scott Peterson has met only with his attorney in preparation



for his first court date Monday to face charges of killing his wife and their unborn child, a spokesman for the sheriff's department said Sunday. Peterson is living in a 6-by-9-foot maximum-security concrete cell fitted with a metal bed, 3-inch-thick mattress, and a stainless steel sink and toilet, Stanislaus County Sheriff's spokesman Kelly Houston said.

"I don't want to investigate it," Lee said. "I just can't be any more emphatic than that."

Laci Peterson's family, through a spokeswoman, asked for privacy for the holiday weekend and said they would make a public statement Monday.

Saturday, Chief Wasden said police were "never able to eliminate Scott" as a suspect in Laci's disappearance.

"It was a process of elimination," he said. "At the outset you have the universe to work from."

The sheriff said investigators were "very close" to arresting Scott Peterson even before the headless body of his wife and the unborn boy they had already named Connor came ashore the DNA tests were ordered.

The body of the boy, who was due to be born in February, was found April 13 by someone walking along a trail at the Point Isabel Regional Park, which sits on the San Francisco Bay. Laci's body was found washed up on rocks the next day, about one and a quarter miles from the unborn baby's body, authorities said.

Those discoveries ignited fears that Peterson might try to flee the country. Peterson had lost weight, dyed his hair lighter and grown a mustache and goatee since he was last seen.



# Power lifting competition for bragging rights

Story and photos by  
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Many soldiers, during a deployment, work out to pass time; some of those soldiers had the opportunity to pit muscle against muscle in the first Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored power lifting competition Sunday at Dragon Palace.

Ten competitors entered, including two females. The competition used the Schwartz formula, which uses a ratio between the weight of a person and the weight of what they lift, to calculate scores.

There were three events in the competition, squats, bench press and the dead lift. If a competitor failed to lift the weight at least one of their three tries, they were disqualified.

The contest was organized and run by Jimmy Ferrazas, Kellogg, Brown and Root labor foreman/Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff because he lifted in high school and is a Texas high school power lifting referee. He spoke with another Brown and Root employee and soldiers. Due to the interest he received, he organized the competition.

“The turn-out was great – especially the

See **LIFT**, Page 5



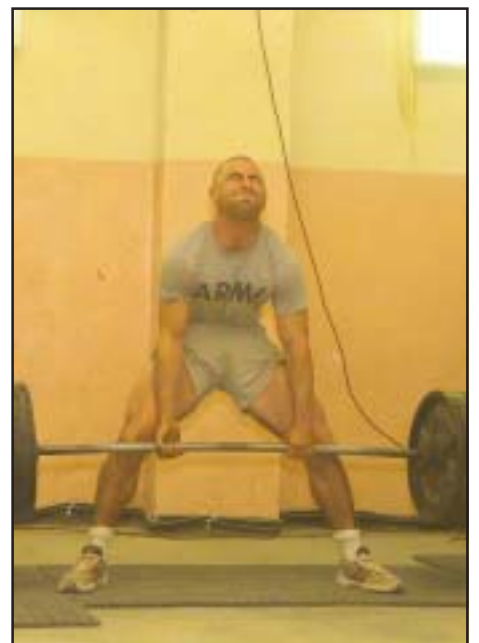
**Above:** Pfc. Javier Saucedo, combat engineer, 307<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C. struggles to squat 405 lbs. during the power lifting competition Sunday.



**Left:** Spc. Ruth Gurley, supply specialist, 519<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., performs a squat. There were three events in the competition including squats, bench press and the dead lift.

**Below left:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michael Iman, horizontal platoon leader, Headquarters Support Company, 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Ruston, La., strains to complete a press.

**Below:** Iman struggles to complete the final dead lift.





*1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Jimmy Carabello, A Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., with the help of an interpreter, speaks with an Afghan militia soldier about the process of searching the village of Khar Bolah.*

## CRACKDOWN, from Page 1 —

lage uncovered a weapons cache containing 237 cases of 14.5 millimeter ammunition, 500 linked 7.62mm rounds, 300 7.62mm ammo drums, 271 rocket propelled grenade rounds, 289 RPG boosters, 40 82mm mortar rounds, 87 fuses, four RPG launchers, 38 Russian grenades and two 107mm rockets.

## MORTAR, from Page 1 —

The practice also serves another purpose, said Staff Sgt. James Santos, Mortar Platoon sergeant. "It's also a show of defense. It lets the bad guys outside the wire know that they have to be more methodical about how they approach the camp."

"(Our mission) is to be like a (quick reaction force) for the OPs," Couch said. "The QRF's response time is 35 minutes to four or five hours. Ours is like 35 seconds."

While getting plenty of firing time in, this particular mortar platoon is somewhat different.

"We're regular artillerymen (13B) doing the job of 11 charlies (indirect fire infantryman)," Santos said. "We've been with the weapon system for a while. The Infantry

Mortar Leaders Course came to train us, we did a rotation at (the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.), numerous live-fires and then deployed to Afghanistan.

"A lot of my guys have more 11C training than 13B," he added.

The artillery crew picked up the mortar mantle in order to support 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps mission requirements, Couch said. While performing the mortar mission, Santos and Couch both said they don't think of themselves as simply a mortar platoon. "We like to consider ourselves a mortar/artillery platoon," Santos said.

Using the mortar weapons system, the artillerymen have implemented tactics employed by field artillery. "We bring increased accuracy, survey and computation procedures to the mortars," Santos said.

The cache was destroyed in a nearby riverbed Wednesday evening.

When entering the town, mission commanders were told by village elders that all weapons had been lawfully turned over to the defense ministry and even showed receipts as proof of their cooperation.

The claims turned out to be false when a local farmer pointed troopers to a secret wall,

which concealed most of the cache.

"He just showed it to us," Sgt. Dale Kearney said. "As you dug, it just got deeper and deeper."

"I just keep (the weapons)," the farmer explained of his collection of munitions. "I don't know, some day I might need it."

He said he had found the weapons six to seven years ago.

This mentality of self-protection and familiarity with weapons is not uncommon, said Command Sgt. Maj. Hoyle Hodges, 505<sup>th</sup> PIR sergeant major. "There have always been smuggling routes through here, it is just a normal way of life for these people," he said.

Second Bn., 505<sup>th</sup> PIR had another recent success in Operation Desert Lion, where they destroyed one of the largest weapons caches found in Afghanistan.

The ongoing recovery and removal of weapons in Afghanistan serves as a reminder to coalition forces that while progress is being made, much work is still needed to be done for the war on terror.

"You could go into any village in this country and find this stuff," Hodges said.

Task Force Devil and other coalition forces remain dedicated to hunting for anti-coalition forces and weapons in hopes of creating a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.



*Pfc. Ryan Seenes, Mortar Platoon, B Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., proves that firing mortars isn't always fun as he cleans out the mortar after firing.*

"Other mortar teams are using a regular compass and map and don't have true direction. By using survey points, interpreted by a computer, we are able to create a

true line and angle. It's like a (precision lightweight global positioning system receiver) and a map," Santos explained.

While very experienced with the mortar system, there is one symbol of the experience that the artillerymen cannot take with them — the combat infantryman badge.

"It's a sore point with most of us," Santos said. "At what point do 13Bs become 11Cs?"

Despite the one point of contention, both Couch and Santos said they couldn't be prouder of their troops.

"We operate 24 hours a day. We never shut down. Every movement platoon coordinates through us so we can support them if needed," Santos said. "I couldn't ask for a better crew. I know the camp sleeps better because we're here."



## LIFT, from Page 3

fact that we had two female contestants,” said Ferrazas.

The competition was between ten soldiers, but the crowd numbered close to 30.

“It helps the lifters to have a crowd. It gets them going,” said Ferrazas.

Ferrazas is hoping for more competitors at the next competition, which is planned for May.

“A lot of people didn’t sign up because they thought it would be big guy verses little guy, but in a blind meet like this the formula makes the playing field equal,” he said.

The winner, Elijah Holliday, received no prize except bragging rights, but according to Ferrazas, “Lifting is all about bragging rights.”

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Ghost and the Darkness.” Set in 1898, this movie is based on the true story of two lions in Africa that killed 130 people over a nine month period.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Gift.”



Photo by Capt. Alayne Cramer, CJTF-180 PAO

## Easter Sunday...

*Italian, Polish, and U.S. Catholic priests prepare the gifts during the Easter Mass at the Enduring Faith Chapel Sunday.*

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 70F L: 43F	Mostly cloudy H: 77F L: 46F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 48F	Partly cloudy H: 81F L: 50F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 73F L: 41F	Haze H: 79F L: 43F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 70F L: 34F	Mostly cloudy H: 73F L: 45F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



## Makaay hits two

**MADRID, Spain**—Deportivo de La Coruna beat Sevilla 3-1 while Real Sociedad trounced Rayo Vallecano 5-0 in 30th-round matches Sunday as the two title contenders reduced Real Madrid's lead at the top of the standings to one point.

Deportivo's Dutch striker Roy Makaay, the Spanish league's leading scorer, netted twice to raise his season's tally to 24, with midfielder Victor Sanchez grabbing the other goal.

Sociedad strolled to victory over last-place Rayo, thanks to a penalty apiece by Spanish international Javi de Pedro and Russian midfielder Valery Karpin, with Turkish forward Nihat Kahveci adding two more and substitute Tayfun Korkut netting the fifth.

Madrid, which drew with Barcelona 1-1 on Saturday, has 61 points, with Deportivo and Sociedad on 60. Celta de Vigo moves up to fourth with 51 points, one more than Valencia.

In another game, Egyptian striker Ahmed "Mido" Hossam netted twice as Celta beat Osasuna 2-0. Sunday's other results were: Real Betis 2, Atletico de Madrid 2; Espanyol 3, Athletic de Bilbao 3; Alaves 0, Malaga 1; and Racing de Santander 1, Recreativo de Huelva 0.

Makaay again made a vital contribution for Deportivo, which has lost just once in its last 11 games, in a game which exploded into life in the final five minutes of the first half.

Sevilla's Greek striker Nikos Machlas was made to regret wasting a clear chance in the 40th minute when Deportivo quickly raced to the other end with Makaay setting up Victor for the first goal.

Four minutes later, the Dutch striker added the second from the penalty spot after defender Zoran Njegus had appeared to kick left back Joan Capdevila in the face.

Sevilla pulled a goal back through striker Antonito Ramiro's close-range shot in the 51st minute, but its comeback hopes were hindered when left back David Castedo was ejected for handball 15 minutes later.

Makaay killed off Sevilla with his second goal from midfielder Juan Carlos Valeron's incisive pass in the 69th minute. The Dutchman's

strike lifted him seven goals above than his closest rivals, Real Sociedad's Nihat and Darko Kovacevic.

Sociedad, which rekindled its title hopes with a 4-2 win over Madrid last weekend, took almost 45 minutes to break the deadlock but then cruised to victory.

## Freedom zooms past CyberRays

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** — Mia Hamm and Lori Lindsey scored first-half goals as the Washington Freedom beat the San Jose CyberRays 2-0 on Saturday in the Women's United Soccer Association.

Washington improved to 3-0 for the first time in franchise history, while San Jose dropped to 1-1.

Hamm, the league's second-leading scorer with seven points, scored on a penalty kick in the ninth minute, putting the ball into the far right corner.

Lindsey scored in the final minute of the half. Jacqui Little made a crossing pass from the right side to Lindsey, who was about even with the left post. Lindsey then headed the ball into the right side of the net past diving goalkeeper LaKeysia Beene.

San Jose's best chance to score came in the 29th minute when Brandi Chastain's header from 10 yards out went over the goal.

## Ernst mistake paves Stuttgart downfall

**BERLIN** — When goalie Thomas Ernst tried to dribble Sunday, the match fell apart for high-flying VfB Stuttgart in the Bundesliga.

Stuttgart led 1-0 on Kevin Kuranyi's 14th season goal, but in the 40th minute Ernst took a pass back and tried to dribble away from Vahid Hashemin. He was stripped by the forward, who fired into an empty net for the easy goal.

Relegation threatened Bochum then went on to win 3-1 on a warm spring day with Hashemin's second goal in the 66th and Thomas Christiansen's header two minutes later.

Schalke also moved to fifth in the table with a 3-1 victory against Leverkusen, which got back Brazilian World Cup defender Lucio from a long injury.

Bochum coach Peter Nueuer had told his players that Ernst, who used to play for the club, wasn't the best football player outside his goal and told them to chase down every back pass.

"The match turned on the 1-1 — and I've the one responsible," Ernst said. "I should have kicked away the ball."

Bulgarian Krassimir Balakov, the veteran among all of Stuttgart's young players, hit a post and the crossbar, but that didn't stop Stuttgart's lead over third-placed Dortmund from melting to one point.

"This was an unnecessary defeat," Stuttgart coach Felix Magath said.

He dismissed talk his overachieving youngsters could still col-

## SPORTS, from Page 6

lapse and misplay an amazing season which seems likely to end with a Champions League berth.

Stuttgart's loss was Bayern's gain, with Munich remaining 11 points clear. Had the youth troop won, the Bavarian lead would have been trimmed from 15 to 8 in just three rounds.

Bochum won for the first time in nine matches, suddenly regaining their confidence after Ernst's mistake, and the win was big in their relegation battle.

The loss by Leverkusen, one slot back of Bochum, left Leverkusen deeper in the relegation battle and Bochum four points clear in their fight.

After Dimitar Berbatov scored in the ninth minute, Leverkusen ran its total to 20 points that the club has let slip away after a go-ahead goal this season.

All three Schalke goals were beautiful as the club remained in the thick of the close battle for Champions League and UEFA Cup berths.

## Violence mars River Plate victory

**BUENOS AIRES**, Argentina — Luis Gonzalez and Fernando Cavenaghi scored a goal each Sunday as River Plate beat Rosario Central 2-0 to remain in the title hunt in a match marred by fan violence that killed two people and left 17 injured.

The pre-game violence ignited when traveling River Plate supporters clashed with fans of rival Newell's Old Boys at a highway toll booth.

Police said one man was shot to death and the other stabbed before authorities arrested nearly 100 fans.

It was unclear what triggered the street fighting near the town of Zarate, 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Buenos Aires, police said.

The deadly clashes were the first since first division play began in March.

Meanwhile, Boca Juniors downed Newell's Old Boys 2-0 to join River Plate atop the league standings after week 10. Velez Sarfield remained in second place with 22 points, followed by Rosario Central with 18.

Midfielders Andres D'Alessandro and Eduardo Coudet helped River recover from a sluggish start to easily handle Rosario Central.

In the 26<sup>th</sup> minute, a streaking Coudet lofted a centering pass to Esteban Fuertes, who placed a header at the feet of Gonzalez to give River a 1-0 lead.

Coudet also assisted on the second goal, playing a quick give-and-go with Cavenaghi, who finally blasted home a left-footed shot in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute.

Rival Boca Juniors also showed flair in their victory.

Sebastian Battaglia scored in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute and Raul Estevez netted in the 75<sup>th</sup> as Boca continued its impressive play under coach Carlos Bianchi, who took over before the start of the season. In other matches it was:

Independiente 2, Huracan 1; Banfield 2, Velez 0; Chicago 3, Chacarita 0; Gimnasia 4, Estudiantes 2; Lanus 1, Olimpo 0; Union 0, Colon 0; Talleres 1, Arsenal 0; and San Lorenzo 3, Racing 1.

After the leaders, Racing Club is fifth in the standings with 17 points; Colon has 15, Olimpo, Chicago and Gimnasia are all tied with 14 points each.

Defending champion Independiente continues to languish in the bottom half of the standings with nine points.

## Challenging for Europe

**AMSTERDAM**, Netherlands — Pierre van Hooijdonk scored twice Sunday in Feyenoord's lackluster 3-1 win at lowly FC Zwolle in the Dutch first division.

Feyenoord remain only one point adrift of second-placed Ajax as the two archrivals joust for the Netherlands' second Champions League berth. PSV Eindhoven still holds an eight-point lead.

With Feyenoord's prolific array of four strikers lined up against the Dutch premiership's second-leakiest defense, it seemed inevitable goals would come.

Belgian Thomas Buffel, frequently showing off a higher gear than any Zwolle defender, drifted effortlessly past three opponents and stretched to poke his 16<sup>th</sup> goal of the season past goalkeeper Johan van der Werff.

Van Hooijdonk doubled the lead after Zwolle defenders handily extended a pass from Bonaventure Kalou.

But Zwolle gradually managed to summon more professional resistance, and several Feyenoord players looked out

***"Give me five bucks, and I'll get you the answers to the test."***



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support